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cont

1 8. (Amended) A method for facilitating purchase of a softgood that is freely distributed to  
2 prospective purchasers for preview within a player program and which includes a unique identifier that  
3 is assigned to the softgood before the softgood is distributed, comprising the steps of:

4 (a) enabling prospective purchasers to preview the softgood with the player program  
5 to a limited extent, prior to deciding to purchase the softgood;

6 (b) enabling purchase of the softgood from within the player program by  
7 connecting a computer on which the player program is executing with an e-commerce agency to  
8 initiate a network transaction, purchase of the softgood causing data related to the purchase to be  
9 recorded in the database of the e-commerce agency and causing a registration value that references  
10 the unique identifier to be transmitted to the computer on which the player program is executing; and

11 (c) using the player program, registering the softgood on the computer employed  
12 for the network transaction using the registration value provided by the e-commerce agency,  
13 registration of the softgood on the computer enabling the softgood to be played by the player program  
14 beyond the limited extent of the preview.

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15 35. (Amended) A system for facilitating automated sale of softgoods from which a revenue stream  
16 is returned to each creator of the softgoods, each softgood including a unique identifier, comprising:

17 (a) creator computers that execute at least one software program used by creators  
18 of the softgoods to produce the softgoods and to assign the unique identifier to the softgoods  
19 produced thereby, said creator computers including network interfaces that couple the creator  
20 computers to a publicly accessible network, the creators of the softgoods entering into agreements  
21 with an e-commerce agency in which the e-commerce agency agrees to facilitate the automated sale  
22 of the softgoods and to return a portion of the revenue stream from the automated sale to the creators  
23 of the softgoods; and

24 (b) a server computer operated by the e-commerce agency, said server computer  
25 maintaining a database in which data relating to the softgoods are stored, said data including unique  
26 identifiers for the softgoods, said server computer also including a network interface coupling the server  
27 computer in communication with the publicly accessible network and receiving the unique identifier  
28 for each softgood from one of:

29 (i) the creator computers before distribution of the softgood to prospective  
30 purchasers; and

31 (ii) a user of the softgood at a sale of the softgood, a purchase of a softgood  
32 being initiated when a softgood is being used, said purchase by a user of the softgood causing the  
33 server computer to confirm approval of a credit transaction for the user by an on-line communication  
34 with a credit approval agency, and if the credit transaction is approved, to transmit a registration  
35 value over the publicly accessible network to a computer of the user to register the softgood on the  
computer of the user, to enter data related to the purchase within the database.

1 Please add new claims 42-44 as follows:

2 --42. A method for controlling the use of freely distributable softgoods, by requiring that a  
3 specific player program for the softgoods be used to enjoy the full range of benefits of the softgoods,  
4 comprising the steps of:

5 (a) providing a composer program that automatically:

6 (i) includes a unique identifier in each softgood; and

7 (ii) formats each softgood such that the specific player program is required  
8 to play the formatted softgood in more than a preview mode, said preview mode not providing access  
9 to the full range of benefits of the softgood;

10 (b) providing an agency having a server that implements softgood purchase  
11 transactions and maintains a database in which data relating to the sale of softgoods are stored,  
12 unique identifiers of the softgoods being referenced in the database to track the softgood purchase  
13 transactions;

14 (c) distributing the formatted softgoods to prospective purchasers, such  
15 distribution not being limited to distribution over a private network; and

16 (d) distributing the specific player program to prospective purchasers, such that  
17 each time the specific player program is used to play a formatted softgood, the specific player  
18 program automatically:

19 (i) checks a registry associated with a computing system on which the  
20 specific player program is resident, to determine if the unique identifier for the formatted softgood is in  
21 the registry, and if so, plays the formatted softgood so as to provide access to its full range of benefits; and

22 (ii) if the unique identifier is not in the registry, communicates with the agency  
23 to determine if the unique identifier for the formatted softgood is associated with a purchase of the  
24 softgood made by a purchaser who is an authorized user of the computing system on which the specific  
25 player program is resident, and if so, plays the formatted softgood with its full range of benefits; and

26 (iii) if the unique identifier is not in the registry and is not associated with  
27 an authorized user, enables playing the softgood in the preview mode, and prompts the user to  
28 purchase the softgood using the agency.

29 43. An article of manufacture adapted for use with a processor, comprising:

30 (a) a memory medium; and

31 (b) a plurality of machine instructions, which are stored on the memory medium,  
32 said plurality of machine instructions when executed by a processor, causing the processor to:

33 (i) check a registry associated with the processor to determine if a unique  
34 identifier for a softgood is included in the registry, and if the unique identifier is included in the  
35 registry, playing the softgood with its full range of benefits;

1 (ii) if the unique identifier is not in the registry, check with an agency to  
2 determine if the unique identifier for the softgood can be tracked to a purchase made by a purchaser  
3 who is also identifiable as an authorized user of a computing system associated with the processor,  
4 and if so, playing the softgood with its full range of benefits; and

5 (iii) if the unique identifier is not in the registry and cannot be tracked to an  
6 authorized user by the agency, then execute at least one of playing the softgood in a preview mode,  
7 and prompting the user to purchase the softgood using the agency.

8 44. A system for playing softgoods that include unique identifiers, comprising:

9 (a) a memory in which a plurality of machine instructions defining a software  
10 application are stored;

11 (b) a display; and

12 (c) a processor that is coupled to the display and to the memory to access the  
13 machine instructions, said processor executing said machine instructions and thereby implementing a  
14 plurality of functions, as follows:

15 (i) checking a registry associated with the processor to determine if a  
16 unique identifier for a softgood is in the registry, and if so, playing the softgood with access to a full  
17 range of its benefits;

18 (ii) if the unique identifier is not in the registry, checking with an agency to  
19 determine if the unique identifier for the softgood is associated with a purchase of the softgood made  
20 by a purchaser who is an authorized user of the system, and if so, playing the softgood with access to  
21 the full range of its benefits; and

22 (iii) if conditions set forth above in (c)(i) or (c)(ii) are not met, then  
23 performing at least one of:

24 (1) playing the softgood in a preview mode; and

25 (2) ~~prompting the user to purchase the softgood using the agency.~~

#### 26 REMARKS

#### 27 Status of the Claims

28 Claims 1-44 are pending in the present application, new Claims 42-44 having been added by  
29 the present amendment. Claims 1, 7, 8, and 35 have been amended to more clearly define the  
30 invention.

#### 31 Claims Rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112

32 The Examiner has rejected Claims 7, 8, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The  
33 Examiner asserts that the language employed in the claims is indefinite, particularly with respect to  
34 the phrase "the e-commerce agency" (Claims 7 and 8), "related data" (Claim 8 – not Claim 7, as  
35 incorrectly indicated by the Examiner), and the term "or" (Claim 35)